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Gov. Ned McWherter

Ned Ray McWherter was a significant figure in Tennessee's political history. He served as the 46th Governor of Tennessee from 1987 to 1995 and was known for his progressive leadership and dedication to public service. Before becoming governor, McWherter had a long tenure as the Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, holding the position from 1973 to 1987.

During his time as governor, McWherter implemented several key initiatives that had a

lasting impact on the state. He was instrumental in the passage of the "Sunshine Law," which opened all governmental meetings and records to the public. He also played a crucial role in education reform, particularly through his Twenty-first Century Schools program, which aimed to upgrade facilities, lower teacher-student ratios, and address funding inequities between rural and urban counties.

McWherter's innovative approach to healthcare led to the creation of TennCare, a program designed to provide health care for needy citizens at a reasonable public cost. His efforts in this area were

closely monitored by officials from other states interested in similar programs.

Overall, McWherter's legacy includes significant contributions to education, healthcare, and government transparency, making him a notable figure in Tennessee's history.